



September 7, 2016

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
US House of Representatives  
2431 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader,

On behalf of the Healthcare Hospitality Network, Inc. (HHN), a nationwide association of nonprofit hospital hospitality houses, I am writing in strong support of the Overtime Reform and Enhancement Act.

Our members are nonprofit organizations that provide free or low cost hospitality housing for families traveling because of a medical crisis. A hospital hospitality house eases the emotional, physical, and financial burdens a patient and their loved-ones endure while simultaneously dealing with a medical challenge. Whether traveling to receive specialized treatment or because no services are available in their communities, the stress of the medical condition is exasperated by being far from home, the impact on daily life, and the cost of travel.

'Homes that help and heal' provide respite, comfort, and care resulting in lowered stress and better health outcomes. Hospitality houses create 'community' for people going through similar challenges to connect and support one another. Each of our members is a nonprofit organization that relies heavily on donors, community support, and volunteers.

While adjustments to the overtime exemption threshold are warranted, our board and members are extremely concerned that nonprofit healthcare hospitality houses will not be able to absorb the phenomenal jump slated to go into effect on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This increase will occur during the current fiscal year with little opportunity to intensify fundraising efforts simply to maintain the current level of services. Staff will be cut and services will be discontinued.

Real families will be unnecessarily hurt and some hospitality houses will ultimately close under the current shortsighted plan.

That's why we strongly support the phased-in strategy in the OREA. Your bill will allow these nonprofit programs to plan, ramp up for, and adjust as necessary to keep serving families in need. For HHN its not just about protecting jobs, although that is very important. It's also about leaving patients and families with fewer options to help them manage the burden and stress of medical crises. Real lives, real consequences.

Thank you for putting forward the OREA. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Karylinn Echols  
Executive Director

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